

Why, then, do we not insist that the Department of State staff the U.S. mission with those individuals who know where to look for these problems and have the courage and have the dedication to serve and to report them to Congress?

Ms. Shenwick should be reinstated to her former position, reimbursed for her personal expenses, and we should have her personnel files expunged of any unsatisfactory reviews or other false evidence to justify those reviews.

I will be sending a letter to President Bush requesting reinstatement of Ms. Shenwick so the United States can again benefit from her expertise, her diligence, and highly exemplary service.

Mr. Speaker, I am also introducing a concurrent resolution to the same effect. I hope my colleagues will join with me in signing this letter to the President and also cosponsor my legislation.

ENERGY CONSERVATION SHOULD BE FOUNDATION OF OUR NATIONAL POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, my goal in Congress is for the Federal Government to be a better partner with individual citizens, their State and local governments; our communities more livable, our families safe, healthy and economically secure.

Having a dependable supply of energy and using it wisely is critical for a livable community. The current controversy surrounding energy is an excellent opportunity for this administration and this Congress to give thoughtful consideration to the impact that energy decisions can have on the livability of our communities and to develop a more rational approach to energy utilization.

Unfortunately, the President, his chief spokesperson, and most recently the Vice President, are setting up a false policy conflict for Americans. They would like us to somehow believe that being more thoughtful about use of energy and the Federal Government's role in promoting a better approach is somehow an assault on the American way of life. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Mr. Speaker, America works best when we give people choices so they can determine what works best for them. A country that disregards the value of conservation, that ignores fuel efficiency for all automobiles, that seeks to maximize production of energy at the expense of environmental quality is not protecting the American way of life, nor is it doing American families or businesses any favors.

Energy conservation is not just a matter of personal virtue, but if it

were, there is nothing wrong with formulating energy policy that recognizes the importance of this virtue.

Energy conservation should be, with all due respect to the Vice President, the foundation of our national policy. It is the only way we will provide significant amounts of energy in the near term. Furthermore, it is an approach that has already proven effective and has received bipartisan support.

All the hotly debated talk about drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge and building a new power plant a week is not going to alleviate the problems facing consumers now. Instead of cutting the budget for environmental conservation, we need to set policies that actually encourage it.

There are simple conservation measures we could be taking today. Number one, extending fuel efficiency standards to all vehicles, including SUVs, light trucks and minivans. An increase of 3 miles per gallon in the fuel efficiency of SUVs will save more oil than drilling in the Arctic would ever produce, and we will get the benefits long before we ever get any Arctic oil.

Two, encouraging higher building standards that are more energy efficient, such as colored roofs, which reflect heat rays and lower home temperatures by as much as 5 degrees.

Three, we should be promoting new technologies and alternate fuels. We should not force people who want a 70-mile-per-gallon vehicle to have to buy one from overseas. By providing incentives and Federal support for developing and deploying energy-efficient technologies here in the United States, we can provide new and lucrative markets for American businesses.

Four, we ought to restore the higher standards for energy guzzling appliances. The Bush administration should allow the saving standards issued by the Clinton administration to stand, not be rolling them back.

Businesses are already realizing these benefits. A DuPont plant in New Jersey, for instance, which refused energy use per pound of product by one-third, cut global warming pollution per pound of product by nearly one-half, and as production rose 9 percent, the total energy bill fell by \$17 million a year.

But we need to get help to the people who perhaps cannot afford it.

Five, helping low-income people with today's skyrocketing energy bills and helping them install energy savings appliances seems to make sense. If we can afford, as some suggest, up to \$2 trillion in tax cuts, there is no reason that Congress cannot put some money on the table now that will help reduce the demand for energy production and help low- and moderate-income people save money over time.

We should have policies that reduce the extra costs for low-income people who may not have the money to replace appliances that in the long term will pay for themselves many times over. The long-term benefits accrue not

just to those low-income households. The community and the utilities will benefit huge savings by not building unnecessary power plants.

Yesterday's poll in USA Today showed that the American public understands this problem and an overwhelming percentage favor conservation over production.

We should invest in alternative energy, retrofit existing buildings with new technology, help lower-income people cope today and conserve for tomorrow, and all of us should embrace conservation.

These principles should be the basis of a national energy policy, an approach that will unite us in Washington, D.C., because it is what the people want and it is the quickest path to building more livable communities.

PARENTS' ROLE IN TEEN PREGNANCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined on the floor of the House today by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), who is my very dear friend and colleague. The gentlewoman and myself and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) have been very active on the issue of teen pregnancy, and work closely with the campaign to end teen pregnancy to bring attention to the issue throughout the Nation.

The newest data shows a very interesting fact: Teens listen to their parents. Often parents think their teenagers only listen to their teenage friends, and sometimes parents give up talking to their teenagers about difficult subjects like sex and sexuality and sexual activity amongst teens.

But when your child is in their teen years, that is a time when you need to talk with your child. You need to listen to your son or your daughter. You need to hear what pressures they feel and face, because it is only through that conversation that you can help your teenager understand their own growth.

Of course, they are growing in sexual awareness, but they are also growing emotionally towards independence and intellectually towards a level of personal power necessary for them to fulfill their dreams.

When we talk to our kids about sexuality, we rarely talk to them about the terrible danger teen pregnancy poses to their growth and development, their ability to parent, their ability to provide for their child in the way they would want to. We rarely talk to them about the sheer lunacy of teen sex because of the devastating impact it can have on their lives. For young girls,